

Michigan Association for Purebred Dogs



Michigan Hunting Dog Federation



Position Paper on House Bill 4257

The **Michigan Association for Pure Bred Dogs** (a federation of pure bred dog clubs in Michigan) and the **Michigan Hunting Dog Federation** (a federation of hunting dog clubs in Michigan) believe that the provisions of this legislation could have a favorable impact upon the objectives of these organizations.

The organizations' main goal is to promote the breeding, training, enjoyment and protection of what is an important animal industry in Michigan.

A 2002 Report by the **American Veterinary Medical Association** indicated there are some 2,180,000 (2.18) million dogs in Michigan households. The impact on the Michigan economy resulting from their production, maintenance, health care, recreational activities and utilitarian contributions is in the billions of dollars.

The greatest threat to the dog industry comes from the animal rights movement. Its largest and most wealthy organization is the **Humane Society of the United States**. Wayne Pacelle, its chief executive officer, is on record with this statement:

We have no ethical obligations to preserve the different breeds of livestock. We have no problem with the extinction of domestic animals.

We are going to use the ballot box and the democratic process to stop all hunting in the United States...We will take it species by species until all hunting is stopped...."

Wayne Pacelle, President, Humane Society of the United States

These objectives are pursued regularly in Michigan—at both the State and local levels.

The businesses that support the companion animal industry, particularly kennel licenses, training areas and field trial training areas for sporting events, are finding it increasingly difficult to find suitable locations for their activities

Since the Department of Agriculture regulates the activities, of breeding, health, sale, and facility maintenance for companion animals, we believe that it should play a greater role in the promotion and protection of the industry.

House Bill 4257 offers hope that the problems the hunting and companion animal people have encountered in maintaining existing locations can be alleviated in order to accomplish their mission of support for pet ownership. It would be helpful for the department to make clear that companion animals are a part of its responsibilities and to include consideration of the industry's needs when legislative actions are proposed.

We recommend that amendments be added to Part 363, section 36301 (G) (iii) to make it clear that companion animal facilities and activities are welcome as "specialty farms."

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Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership